

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

INVENTION	YEAR	INVENTOR	COUNTRY
aerosol can	1926	Erik Rotheim	Norway
air conditioning	1902	Willis Haviland Carrier	US
airbag, automotive	1952	John Hetrick	US
airplane, engine-powered	1903	Wilbur & Orville Wright	US
airship	1852	Henri Giffard	France
alphabet	c. 1700–1500 BC	Semitic-speaking peoples	eastern coast of Mediterranean Sea
American Sign Language	1817	Thomas H. Gallaudet	US
animation, motion-picture	1906	J. Stuart Blackton	US
answering machine, telephone	1898	Valdemar Poulsen	Denmark
aspartame	1965	James Schlatter	US
aspirin	1897	Felix Hoffmann (Bayer)	Germany
assembly line	1913	Henry Ford	US
astrolabe	c. 2nd century	—	—
AstroTurf	1965	James M. Faria, Robert T. Wright	US
audiotape	1928	Fritz Pfeumer	Germany
automated teller machine (ATM)	1968	Don Wetzel	US
automobile	1889	Gottlieb Daimler	Germany
baby food, prepared	1927	Dorothy Gerber	US
bag, flat-bottomed paper	1870	Margaret Knight	US
Bakelite	1907	Leo Hendrik Baekeland	US
ball bearing	1794	Philip Vaughan	England
balloon, hot-air	1783	Joseph & Étienne Montgolfier	France
bandage, adhesive	1921	Earle Dickson	US
bar code	1952	Joseph Woodland	US
barbed wire	1874	Joseph Glidden	US
barometer	1643	Evangelista Torricelli	Italy
battery, electric storage	1800	Alessandro Volta	Italy

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

<u>beer</u>	before 6000 BC	Sumerians, Babylonians	Mesopotamia
<u>bicycle</u>	1818	Baron Karl de Drais de Sauerbrun	Germany
<u>bifocal lens</u>	1784	Benjamin Franklin	US
<u>bikini</u>	1946	Louis Réard	France
<u>blood bank</u>	late 1930s	Charles Richard Drew	US
<u>blow-dryer</u>	1920	Racine Universal Motor Co., Hamilton Beach Manufacturing Co.	US
<u>bomb, atomic</u>	1945	J. Robert Oppenheimer, et al.	US
<u>bomb, thermonuclear (hydrogen)</u>	1952	Edward Teller, et al.	US
<u>boomerang</u>	c. 15,000 years ago	Aboriginal peoples	Australia
<u>Braille system</u>	1824	Louis Braille	France
<u>brassiere (bra)</u>	1913	Mary Phelps Jacob	US
<u>bread, sliced (bread-slicing machine)</u>	1928	Otto Frederick Rohwedder	US
<u>button</u>	c. 700 BC	Greeks, Etruscans	Greece, Italy
<u>buttonhole</u>	13th century	—	Europe
<u>calculator, electronic hand-held</u>	1967	Jack S. Kilby	US
<u>calculus</u>	1680s	Sir Isaac Newton and Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (invented separately)	England and Germany (respectively)
<u>calendar, modern (Gregorian)</u>	1582	Pope Gregory XIII	Italy
<u>camcorder</u>	1982	Sony Corp.	Japan
<u>camera, motion picture</u>	1891	Thomas Alva Edison, William K.L. Dickson	US
<u>camera, portable photographic</u>	1888	George Eastman	US
<u>can, metal beverage</u>	1933	American Can Co.	US
<u>can opener</u>	1858	Ezra J. Warner	US
<u>candle</u>	c. 3000 BC	—	Egypt, Crete
<u>canning, food</u>	1809	Nicolas Appert	France
<u>carbon-14 dating</u>	1946	Willard F. Libby	US

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

<u>cardboard, corrugated</u>	1871	Albert Jones	US
<u>cards, playing</u>	c. 10th century	—	China
<u>cash register</u>	1879	James Ritty	US
<u>cat litter</u>	1947	Edward Lowe	US
<u>catalog, mail-order</u>	1872	Aaron Montgomery Ward	US
<u>cellophane</u>	1911	Jacques E. Brandenberger	Switzerland
<u>celluloid</u>	1869	John Wesley Hyatt	US
<u>cement, portland</u>	1824	Joseph Aspdin	England
<u>cereal flakes, breakfast</u>	1894	John Harvey Kellogg	US
<u>chewing gum (modern)</u>	c. 1870	Thomas Adams	US
<u>chocolate</u>	c. 3rd–10th century	Maya, Aztecs	Central America, Mexico
<u>chronometer</u>	1762	John Harrison	England
<u>clock, pendulum</u>	1656	Christiaan Huygens	The Netherlands
<u>clock, quartz</u>	1927	Warren A. Morrison	Canada/US
<u>cloning, animal</u>	1970	John B. Gurdon	UK
<u>coffee, drip</u>	1908	Melitta Bentz	Germany
<u>coffee, decaffeinated</u>	1905	Ludwig Roselius	Germany
<u>coins</u>	c. 650 BC	Lydians	Turkey
<u>compact disc (CD)</u>	1980	Philips Electronics, Sony Corp.	The Netherlands, Japan
<u>compass, magnetic</u>	c. 12th century	—	China, Europe
<u>computed tomography (CT scan, CAT scan)</u>	1972	Godfrey Hounsfield, Allan Cormack	UK, US
<u>computer, electronic digital</u>	1939	John V. Atanasoff, Clifford E. Berry	US
<u>computer, laptop</u>	1983	Radio Shack Corp.	US
<u>computer, personal</u>	1974	MITS (Micro Instrumentation Telemetry Systems)	US
<u>concrete, reinforced</u>	1867	Joseph Monier	France
<u>condom, latex</u>	c. 1930	—	—
<u>contact lenses</u>	1887	Adolf Fick	Germany
<u>contraceptives, oral</u>	early 1950s	Gregory Pincus, John Rock, Min	US

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

		Chueh Chang	
<u>corn, hybrid</u>	1917	Donald F. Jones	US
<u>correction fluid, white</u>	1951	Bette Nesmith	US
<u>cotton gin</u>	1793	Eli Whitney	US
<u>coupon, grocery</u>	1894	Asa Candler	US
<u>crayons, children's wax</u>	1903	Edwin Binney, C. Harold Smith	US
<u>cream separator (dairy processing)</u>	1878	Carl Gustaf Patrik de Laval	Sweden
<u>credit card</u>	1950	Frank McNamara, Ralph Schneider (Diners' Club)	US
<u>crossword puzzles</u>	1913	Arthur Wynne	US
<u>DDT</u>	1874	Othmar Zeidler	Germany
<u>defibrillator</u>	1952	Paul M. Zoll	US
<u>dentures</u>	c. 700 BC	Etruscans	Italy
<u>detector, metal</u>	late 1920s	Gerhard Fisher	Germany/US
<u>detector, home smoke</u>	1969	Randolph Smith, Kenneth House	US
<u>diamond, artificial</u>	1955	General Electric Co.	US
<u>diapers, disposable</u>	1950	Marion Donovan	US
<u>digital videodisc (DVD)</u>	1995	consortium of international electronics companies	Japan, US, The Netherlands
<u>dishwasher</u>	1886	Josephine Cochrane	US
<u>DNA fingerprinting</u>	1984	Alec Jeffreys	UK
<u>doughnut (ring) or donut</u>	1847	Hanson Crockett Gregory	US
<u>door, revolving</u>	1888	Theophilus von Kannel	US
<u>drinking fountain</u>	c. 1905–1912	Luther Haws, Halsey W. Taylor (invented separately)	US
<u>dry cleaning</u>	1855	Jean Baptiste Jolly	France
<u>dynamite</u>	1867	Alfred Nobel	Sweden
<u>elastic, fabric</u>	c. 1830	Thomas Hancock	UK
<u>electric chair</u>	1888	Harold P. Brown, Arthur E. Kennelly	US
<u>electrocardiogram (ECG, EKG)</u>	1903	Willem Einthoven	The Netherlands

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

<u>electroencephalogram (EEG)</u>	1929	Hans Berger	Germany
<u>electronic mail (e-mail)</u>	1971	Ray Tomlinson	US
<u>elevator, passenger</u>	1852	Elisha Graves Otis	US
<u>encyclopedia</u>	c. 4th century BC or 77 AD	Speusippus (compilation of Plato's teachings) or Pliny the Elder (comprehensive work)	Greece or Rome
<u>engine, internal-combustion</u>	1859	Étienne Lenoir	France
<u>engine, jet</u>	1930	Sir Frank Whittle	UK
<u>engine, liquid-fueled rocket</u>	1926	Robert H. Goddard	US
<u>engine, steam</u>	1698	Thomas Savery	England
<u>escalator</u>	1891	Jesse W. Reno	US
<u>eyeglasses</u>	1280s	Salvino degli Armati or Alessandro di Spina	Italy
<u>facsimile (fax)</u>	1842	Alexander Bain	Scotland
<u>fiber optics</u>	1955	Narinder S. Kapany	India
<u>fiberglass</u>	1938	Owens Corning (corp.)	US
<u>film, photographic</u>	1884	George Eastman	US
<u>flashlight, battery-operated portable</u>	1899	Conrad Hubert	Russia/US
<u>flask, vacuum (Thermos)</u>	1892	Sir James Dewar	Scotland
<u>food processor</u>	1971	Pierre Verdon	France
<u>foods, freeze-dried</u>	1946	Earl W. Flosdorf	US
<u>foods, frozen</u>	c. 1924	Clarence Birdseye	US
<u>Fresnel lens</u>	1820	Augustin-Jean Fresnel	France
<u>fuel cell</u>	1839	William R. Grove	UK
<u>genetic engineering</u>	1973	Stanley N. Cohen, Herbert W. Boyer	US
<u>Geiger counter</u>	1908	Hans Geiger	Germany
<u>glass</u>	c. 2500 BC	Egyptians or Phoenicians	Egypt or Lebanon
<u>glass, safety</u>	1909	Édouard Bénédictus	France
<u>greeting card, Christmas</u>	1843	John Callcott Horsley	England
<u>guillotine</u>	1792	Joseph-Ignace Guillotin	France
<u>guitar, electric</u>	1941	Les Paul	US

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

<u>gunpowder</u>	c. 10th century	—	China or Arabia
<u>hanger, wire coat</u>	1903	Albert J. Parkhouse	US
<u>helicopter</u>	1939	Igor Sikorsky	Russia/US
<u>holography</u>	1948	Dennis Gabor	Hungary
<u>hypodermic syringe</u>	1853	Charles Gabriel Pravaz	France
<u>in vitro fertilization (IVF), human</u>	1978	Patrick Steptoe, Robert Edwards	UK
<u>ink</u>	c. 2500 BC	—	Egypt, China
<u>insulin, extraction and preparation of</u>	1921	Sir Frederick Grant Banting, Charles H. Best	Canada
<u>integrated circuit</u>	1958	Jack S. Kilby	US
<u>Internet</u>	1969	Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) at the Dept. of Defense	US
<u>iron, electric</u>	1882	Henry W. Seely	US
<u>irradiation, food</u>	1905	—	US/UK
<u>jeans</u>	1873	Levi Strauss, Jacob Davis	US
<u>JELL-O (gelatin dessert)</u>	1897	Pearle B. Wait	US
<u>jukebox</u>	1889	Louis Glass	US
<u>Kevlar</u>	1965	Stephanie Kwolek	US
<u>Kool-Aid (fruit drink mix)</u>	1927	Edwin E. Perkins	US
<u>laser</u>	1958	Gordon Gould and Charles Hard Townes, Arthur L. Schawlow (invented separately)	US
<u>laundromat</u>	1934	J.F. Cantrell	US
<u>lawn mower, gasoline-powered</u>	c. 1940	Leonard Goodall	US
<u>Lego</u>	late 1940s	Ole Kirk Christiansen	Denmark
<u>light bulb, incandescent</u>	1879	Thomas Alva Edison	US
<u>light bulb, fluorescent</u>	1934	Arthur Compton	US
<u>light-emitting diode (LED)</u>	1962	Nick Holonyak, Jr.	US
<u>linoleum</u>	1860	Frederick Walton	UK
<u>lipstick, tube</u>	1915	Maurice Levy	US

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

<u>liquid crystal display (LCD)</u>	1963	George Heilmeyer	US
<u>lock and key</u>	c. 2000 BC	Assyrians	Mesopotamia
<u>locomotive</u>	1829	George Stephenson	England
<u>longbow</u>	c. 1000	—	Wales
<u>loudspeaker</u>	1924	Chester W. Rice, Edward W. Kellogg	US
<u>magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)</u>	early 1970s	Raymond Damadian, Paul Lauterbur	US
<u>margarine</u>	1869	Hippolyte Mège-Mouriès	France
<u>matches, friction</u>	1827	John Walker	England
<u>metric system of measurement</u>	1795	French Academy of Sciences	France
<u>microphone</u>	1878	David E. Hughes	UK/US
<u>microscope, compound optical</u>	c. 1600	Hans & Zacharias Jansen	The Netherlands
<u>microscope, electron</u>	1933	Ernst Ruska	Germany
<u>microwave oven</u>	1945	Percy L. Spencer	US
<u>miniature golf</u>	c. 1930	Garnet Carter	US
<u>mirror, glass</u>	c. 1200	Venetians	Italy
<u>missile, guided</u>	1942	Wernher von Braun	Germany
<u>mobile home</u>	1919	Glenn H. Curtiss	US
<u>money, paper</u>	late 900s	—	China
<u>Monopoly (board game)</u>	1934	Charles B. Darrow	US
<u>Morse code</u>	1838	Samuel F.B. Morse	US
<u>motor, electric</u>	1834	Thomas Davenport	US
<u>motor, outboard</u>	1907	Ole Evinrude	Norway/US
<u>motorcycle</u>	1885	Gottlieb Daimler, Wilhelm Maybach	Germany
<u>mouse, computer</u>	1963–64	Douglas Engelbart	US
<u>Muzak</u>	1922	George Owen Squier	US
<u>nail, construction</u>	c. 3300 BC	Sumerians	Mesopotamia
<u>necktie</u>	17th century	—	Croatia
<u>neon lighting</u>	1910	Georges Claude	France
<u>nuclear reactor</u>	1942	Enrico Fermi	US

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

nylon	1937	Wallace H. Carothers	US
oil lamp	1784	Aimé Argand	Switzerland
oil well	1859	Edwin Laurentine Drake	US
pacemaker, cardiac	1952	Paul M. Zoll	US
paper	c. 105	Ts'ai Lun	China
paper clip	1899	Johan Vaaler	Norway
paper towel	1931	Arthur Scott	US
parachute, modern	1797	André-Jacques Garnerin	France
parking meter	1932	Carl C. Magee	US
particle accelerator	1929	Sir John Douglas Cockcroft, Ernest Thomas Sinton Walton	Ireland/UK
pasteurization	1864	Louis Pasteur	France
pen, ballpoint	1938	Lazlo Biro	Hungary
pencil	1565	Conrad Gesner	Switzerland
periodic table	1871	Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleyev	Russia
personal watercraft, motorized	1968	Bombardier, Inc.	Canada
petroleum jelly	1870s	Robert Chesebrough	US
phonograph	1877	Thomas Alva Edison	US
photocopying (xerography)	1937	Chester F. Carlson	US
photography	1837	Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre	France
photography, instant	1947	Edwin Herbert Land	US
Play-Doh	1956	Noah W. & Joseph S. McVicker	US
plow, steel	1836	John Deere	US
pocket watch	c. 1500	Peter Henlein	Germany
polyethylene	1935	Eric Fawcett, Reginald Gibson	UK
polygraph (lie detector)	1921	John A. Larson	US
polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	1872	Eugen Baumann	Germany
Post-it Notes	mid-1970s	Arthur Fry (3M)	US
potato chips	1853	George Crum	US
printing press, movable type	c. 1450	Johannes Gutenberg	Germany

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

<u>Prozac</u>	1972	Ray W. Fuller, Bryan B. Molloy, David T. Wong	US
<u>radar</u>	c. 1904	Christian Hülsmeyer	Germany
<u>radio</u>	1896	Guglielmo Marconi	Italy
<u>radio, car</u>	early 1920s	William P. Lear	US
<u>rayon</u>	1884	Louis-Marie-Hilaire Bernigaud, count of Chardonnet	France
<u>razor, electric</u>	1928	Jacob Schick	US
<u>razor, safety</u>	c. 1900	King Camp Gillette	US
<u>reaper, mechanical</u>	1831	Cyrus Hall McCormick	US
<u>record, long-playing (LP)</u>	1948	Peter Carl Goldmark	US
<u>refrigerator</u>	1842	John Gorrie	US
<u>remote control, television</u>	1950	Robert Adler	US
<u>respirator</u>	c. 1955	Forrest M. Bird	US
<u>revolver</u>	1835–36	Samuel Colt	US
<u>Richter scale</u>	1935	Charles Francis Richter, Beno Gutenberg	US
<u>rifle, assault</u>	1944	Hugo Schmeisser	Germany
<u>roller coaster</u>	1884	LeMarcus A. Thompson	US
<u>rubber, vulcanized</u>	1839	Charles Goodyear	US
<u>rubber band</u>	1845	Stephen Perry	UK
<u>saccharin</u>	1879	Ira Remsen, Constantin Fahlberg	US, Germany
<u>saddle (riding)</u>	c. 200 BC	—	China
<u>safety pin</u>	1849	Walter Hunt	US
<u>satellite, successful artificial earth</u>	1957	Sergey Korolyov, et al.	USSR
<u>satellite, communications</u>	1960	John Robinson Pierce	US
<u>saxophone</u>	1846	Antoine-Joseph Sax	Belgium
<u>Scotch tape</u>	1930	Richard Drew (3M)	US
<u>scuba gear</u>	1943	Jacques Cousteau, Émile Gagnan	France
<u>seat belt, automotive shoulder</u>	1959	Nils Bohlin (Volvo)	Sweden
<u>sewing machine</u>	1841	Barthélemy Thimonnier	France

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

shoelaces	1790	—	England
silicone	1904	Frederic Stanley Kipping	UK
skateboard	1958	Bill & Mark Richards	US
skates, ice	1000 BC	—	Scandinavia
skates, roller	1760s	Joseph Merlin	Belgium
ski, snow	c. 2000–3000 BC	—	Sweden, Finland, Norway
skyscraper, steel-frame	1884	William Le Baron Jenney	US
slot machine	1890s	Charles Fey	US
snowmobile	1922	Joseph-Armand Bombardier	Canada
soap	600 BC	Phoenicians	Lebanon
soft drinks, carbonated	1772	Joseph Priestley	UK
sonar	1915	Paul Langevin	France
stamps, postage	1840	Sir Rowland Hill	UK
stapler	1866	George W. McGill	US
steamboat, successful	1807	Robert Fulton	US
steel, mass-production	1856	Henry Bessemer	UK
steel, stainless	1914	Harry Brearley	UK
stereo, personal	1979	Sony Corp.	Japan
stereophonic sound recording	1931	Alan Dower Blumlein	UK
stethoscope	1819	René-Théophile-Hyacinthe Laënnec	France
stock ticker	1867	Edward A. Calahan	US
stove, electric	1896	William Hadaway	US
stove, gas	1826	James Sharp	UK
straw, drinking	1888	Marvin Stone	US
submarine	1620	Cornelis Drebbel	The Netherlands
sunglasses	1752	James Ayscough	UK
sunscreen	1944	Benjamin Green	US
supermarket	1930	Michael Cullen	US
synthesizer, music	1955	Harry Olson, Herbert Belar	US

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

<u>synthetic skin</u>	1981	Ioannis V. Yannas, John F. Burke	US
<u>tampon, cotton</u>	1931	Earle Cleveland Haas	US
<u>tank, military</u>	1915	Admiralty Landships Committee	UK
<u>tea bag</u>	early 1900s	Thomas Sullivan	US
<u>teddy bear</u>	1902	Morris Michtom	US
<u>Teflon</u>	1938	Roy Plunkett	US
<u>telegraph</u>	1832–35	Samuel F.B. Morse	US
<u>telephone, wired-line</u>	1876	Alexander Graham Bell	Scotland/Canada/US
<u>telephone, mobile</u>	1946	Bell Laboratories	US
<u>telescope, optical</u>	1608	Hans Lippershey	The Netherlands
<u>television</u>	1923, 1927	Vladimir Kosma Zworykin, Philo Taylor Farnsworth	Russia/US, US
<u>thermometer</u>	1592	Galileo	Italy
<u>thermostat</u>	1830	Andrew Ure	UK
<u>threshing machine</u>	1778	Andrew Meikle	Scotland
<u>tire, pneumatic</u>	1888	John Boyd Dunlop	UK
<u>tissue, disposable facial</u>	1924	Kimberly-Clark Co.	US
<u>tissue, toilet</u>	1857	Joseph Gayetty	US
<u>toaster, electric</u>	1893	Crompton Co.	UK
<u>toilet, flush</u>	c. 1591	Sir John Harington	England
<u>toothbrush</u>	1498	—	China
<u>tractor</u>	1892	John Froehlich	US
<u>traffic lights, automatic</u>	1923	Garrett A. Morgan	US
<u>transistor</u>	1947	John Bardeen, Walter H. Brattain, William B. Shockley	US
<u>typewriter</u>	1868	Christopher Latham Sholes	US
<u>ultrasound imaging, obstetric</u>	1958	Ian Donald	UK
<u>vaccination</u>	1796	Edward Jenner	England
<u>vacuum cleaner, electric</u>	1901	Herbert Cecil Booth	UK
<u>Velcro</u>	1948	George de Mestral	Switzerland
<u>vending machine</u>	c. 100–200	—	Egypt

Encyclopedia Britannica's The Greatest Inventions of All Times

	BC		
<u>Viagra</u>	1997	Pfizer Inc.	US
<u>video games</u>	1972	Nolan Bushnell	US
<u>videocassette recorder</u>	1969	Sony Corp.	Japan
<u>videotape</u>	1950s	Charles Ginsburg	US
<u>virtual reality</u>	1989	Jaron Lanier	US
<u>vision correction, laser</u>	1987	Stephen Trokel	US
<u>washing machine, electric</u>	1907	Alva J. Fisher	US
<u>wheel</u>	about 3500 BC	proto-Aryan people or Sumerians	Russia/Kazakhstan or Mesopotamia
<u>wheelbarrow</u>	1st century BC	—	China
<u>wheelchair</u>	1590s	—	Spain
<u>windmill</u>	644	—	Persia
<u>wine</u>	before 4000 BC	—	Middle East
<u>World Wide Web</u>	1989	Tim Berners-Lee	UK
<u>wristwatch, digital</u>	1970	John M. Bergey	US
<u>X-ray imaging</u>	1895	Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen	Germany
<u>Zamboni (ice resurfacing machine)</u>	1949	Frank J. Zamboni	US
<u>zipper</u>	1893	Whitcomb L. Judson	US